From September 2020, the government guidance is for all children and young people, in all year groups, to return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term.

It has been noted that during these exceptional times, some schools are receiving approaches from some parents/carers requesting that their child returns to school under either a flexible arrangement or child is taken off roll for EHE.

**Elective Home Education**

This is when a child or young person is removed from a school roll and the parent or carer assumes full responsibility for their education, including all costs (like exam fees, books, stationery, internet costs, tuition fees etc.). Neither schools nor Local Authorities are required to provide any support to parents or carers who withdraw their child for EHE. Parents are also required to complete an online form detailing the education they will be providing for their child. Upon receiving a request / query about EHE, schools are encouraged to initiate a dialogue with parents to explain implications of EHE and outline the precautionary measures to reduce transmission of COVID in school. If the parent still decides to withdraw the child for EHE, schools are reminded to follow the procedures and notify the Local Authority by following the link below.

www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/services-to-schools/elective-home-education

If there is a request from the GRT community to keep the child at home, if the absence from school is not due to travelling as a result of their work/ business, then the absence cannot be authorised with a 'T' code. Schools are advised to be mindful of cultural beliefs and provide reassurance and support to assist with children returning to school. However, should the parent / carer wish to pursue with EHE then the above guidance would apply.

Where a child or young person is withdrawn from school for EHE, the school will delete the child from the Admissions and Attendance register and they will no longer be responsible for any aspects of the child’s education.

**Flexi-schooling**

This is an agreement when a pupil is registered at school and has a full-time education plan, but is educated partly in a school setting (primary or secondary) and partly elsewhere. It is usually a short-term arrangement depending on individual cases and it is recommended that a formal plan and agreement is in place with built in reviews meetings.

Flexi-schooling is a local agreement between the school (head teacher) and parents. It is a legal option but, there is no legal right to flexi-schooling demands from parents. This is at the discretion of the head teacher who will evaluate and review each request on individual basis. When considering this arrangement, it is important to remember that it is not for the convenience of the parents/carers but that it is in the best interests of the child and is not a long term arrangement. In a flexi-schooling arrangement the child remains on the school roll. The days agreed to be out of school are authorised with a ‘C’ code in the attendance register.

Flexi-schooling request to minimise exposure to the COVID virus should not be accepted as a reason for agreeing flexi-schooling. If this request relates to medical needs for the child, please refer to Medical Needs Protocol.